

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 020368

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /014 R

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COM/SAD/JEMURRIN

COM/WCA/TFIEDLER

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P 272213Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 020368

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, BC, NI

SUBJECT: AVIATION AND GROUND SUPPORT TRADE MISSION

FOR: SEVER (LAGOS)

REF: GABORONE 0092

1. AS REQUESTED, MISSION DIRECTOR CARRYING "WRIGHT BROTHERS" AND "PEACE AND COMMERCE" MEDALS. THE SO CALLED "PEACE AND COMMERCE" MEDAL IS IN FACT THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MEDAL ISSUED FOR PUBLIC SALE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY. THIS MEDAL WAS ORDERED IN 1790 BY THOMAS JEFFERSON, THEN SECRETARY OF STATE DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, AS "A PRESENT PROPER TO BE GIVEN TO DIPLOMATIC CHARACTERS ON THEIR TAKING LEAVE OF US." THE DESIGN ITSELF WAS CONCEIVED BY JEFFERSON AND WAS EXECUTED IN PARIS BY THE FAMOUS SCULPTER, AUGUSTINE DUPRE. THE USE OF THIS MEDAL AS AN OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC PRESENTA-
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PAGE 02 STATE 020368

TION WAS DISCONTINUED IN 1791.

2. THE MEDAL HAS BEEN PRESENTED BY TRADE MISSION MEMBERS TO FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AS A TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP AND RECOGNITION OF THE INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENT'S WORK.

3. THE TWO MEDALS WERE PURCHASED FOR THE MISSION USE BY THE DIRECTOR FROM HIS PERSONAL FUNDS, AND HE SHOULD BE REIMBURSED BY THE EMBASSY FROM HOSPITALITY FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE MISSION. KISSINGER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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To: GABORONE
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